



PRESIDENCE  
DU MOUVEMENT DES NON-ALIGNES  
CHAPITRE UNESCO  
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CHAIR  
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT  
UNESCO CHAPTER



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**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AT  
THE 210<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO**

Mr. Chairman of the Executive Council,  
Mr. President of the General Conference,  
Madam Director General of UNESCO,  
Distinguished delegates,

It is a great honor for the Republic of Azerbaijan, in its capacity as the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, to take the floor at the 210<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Board on behalf of NAM/UNESCO Chapter.

Throughout its history, the NAM has played a fundamental role in strengthening international peace and security, in accordance with Bandung principles. The NAM persistently called to promote a culture of peace based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial domination, prevention of violence, promotion of non-violence, strict adherence to the principles of international relations as enshrined in the UN Charter.

The NAM reaffirms its determination to promote tolerance and respect for cultural diversity, to seek common ground among and within civilizations to address common challenges to shared values and universal human rights, and to fight against racism and discrimination, through cooperation, partnership and inclusion.

In this regard, NAM reaffirms the importance of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions by UNESCO, as a major contribution to the international community, within the framework of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, its Action Plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The NAM Member States are ready to cooperate with UNESCO in the promotion of the principles included in the Universal Declaration, with a view to strengthen the synergy of the measures adopted for cultural diversity.

We reiterate the importance of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Additional Protocols and invite those States, which have not yet done so, to consider ratifying them.

This year we are celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. In this respect, NAM Member States are concerned that the decisions and

resolutions of the UNESCO, concerning the return of cultural properties to the peoples who were or still are under colonial rule or occupation, are not fully implemented by UN Member States and, further urge UNESCO to identify the stolen or illegally exported cultural properties in accordance with the relevant convention and tools on the subject, including the 1970 Convention; ICPRCP, the 1978 plea of UNESCO for the Return of an Irreplaceable Cultural Heritage to those who Created It and the Strategy adopted for facilitating the restitution of stolen cultural property.

NAM Member States reiterate their support to the Palestinian people in realization of their inalienable rights, including self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

NAM reaffirms its commitment to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO, as an important contribution of the international community in favor of the protection of the intangible cultural heritage.

We welcome the efforts to create literate communities and societies, to eradicate illiteracy, including among women and girls and to eliminate the gender gap in literacy, by intensifying efforts to follow-up to the 2030 Framework for Action for Education and Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and other activities of the UNESCO, within the framework of the internationally agreed development goals.

We particularly, welcome and support the Global Education Coalition launched by UNESCO to support countries in ensuring continuity of learning process, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We express our readiness to further continue cooperation with UNESCO on advancing the matters of mutual interests.

Thank you.